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The Friday Letter

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Wyoming Doubles Summer Feeding Program

The summer feeding program presented a real challenge to staff of Wyoming's Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS): Could an agency whose focus was health programs stretch its small staff to operate a totally unfamiliar program? During the first summer of operation, DHSS staff proved they were equal to the challenge by doubling the number of sponsors and tripling the number of children participating.

Formerly operated by the Mountain Plains Regional Office, the summer program was assumed by the Wyoming agency this year. Much of the success of the new leadership is attributable to Mary Capra, a nutrition services program consultant, who put a great deal of hard work into an effective outreach effort to recruit reliable sponsors to run the program.

Capra's early efforts involved writing letters and personally contacting potential sponsors while making WIC-related visits. Publicity was generated through media announcements to 19 newspapers and radio stations in nine areas. The campaign doubled the number of sponsoring organizations from two to four. Summer sites have been operating this year in Cheyenne, Laramie, and Fremont County, including the Northern Arapahoe Indian Tribe.

Last year's regional office-administered program served 6,200 meals and supplements in June. This year, Wyoming sponsors served over 19,600 meals and supplements during the same month.

Capra's plans to improve next summer's program are already under way. Having

piqued the interest of other communities, she will follow up with more program information.

-Story by Joanne Widner
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

Child Nutrition Training for New Pacific Island Nations

The school food service coordinators from the three nations formed by the Compact of Free Association, the chief of food services for the former Trust Territory, and representatives from American Samoa, attended 3 days of training on child nutrition program administration. The training prepared the representatives from the new nations of the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands to take over operation of the programs. The officials will oversee the phaseout of FNS programs over the next 3 years, and the establishment of local programs to replace them.

Members of the Western Region food distribution, child nutrition, and financial management staffs provided the training which discussed FNS program operation in general and how the Compact of Free Association will affect the programs.

The training was videotaped so that coordinators will have a record of the presentations as a reference, as well as a convenient means by which to share the training with their staff.

-Story by Tino Serrano
WRO Public Affairs Staff

Food Programs Participation Update

Following are preliminary estimates of participation in the Federal-State food assistance programs for the month of June with comparisons to the previous month and to the same month of last year.

	<u>June 1986</u>	<u>May 1987</u>	<u>June 1987</u> <u>2/</u>
<u>Food Stamp Program: 1/</u>			
People participating (mil.)	19.3	19.3	19.0
Value of bonus coupons (\$ mil.)	875.9	879.1	867.5
Average bonus per person	\$ 45.33	\$ 45.66	\$ 45.56
Total program cost (\$ mil.).....	966.9	975.5	963.8
<u>Child Care Food Program:</u>			
Number of meals served in centers (mil.)	27.4	37.7	30.8
Number of meals served in homes (mil.)	23.4	26.6	26.9
Percentage of all meals served free	76.6	77.5	76.6
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	35.9	46.8	42.0
<u>Summer Food Service Program:</u>			
Number of meals served (mil.)	13.7	—	14.6
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	20.8	1.0	24.2
<u>Special Supplemental Food Program (WIC):</u>			
People participating (mil.)	3.3	3.4	3.4
Food cost (\$ mil.)	103.9	114.0	114.8
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	130.9	139.5	142.0
<u>Commodity Supplemental Food Program: 3/</u>			
People participating (thous.)	133.1	147.8	151.7
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	2.4	2.7	2.7
<u>Food Distribution to Indians and Needy Families:</u>			
Number of projects in operation	105	106	106
People participating (thous.)	147.8	141.5	145.7
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	4.3	4.2	4.2
<u>TEMPORARY EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:</u>			
Total USDA cost (\$ mil.).....	69.7	75.3	66.5

1/ Puerto Rico has been excluded from all months.

2/ Data collected as of August 24, 1987.

3/ Includes data for Commodity Elderly as of January 1987.

Note: No data are provided for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs during the summer months.

MPRO State Welfare Commissioners Meet in Denver

The Mountain Plains Regional Office played host to a highly successful gathering of state welfare commissioners recently that featured a keynote address by Administrator Anna Kondratas and a legislative briefing by Bonny O'Neil, director, Program Planning, Development and Support Division. The 1-day session was attended by seven commissioners, including five welfare directors who were new to the job. The briefings provided by FNS staff drew high praise from both new and seasoned commissioners, who also had an opportunity to meet with one another for the first time.

Commissioners who arrived the previous evening were feted at an evening reception attended by MPRO administrators and program and staff directors. The next day, Nutrition Director Esther Eicher arranged a luncheon for all participants, aided by program staff who prepared and served the meal.

Future meetings were welcomed by the commissioners, who indicated they would be willing to piggyback Department of Health and Human Services briefings with a day devoted to FNS topics. Some welfare reform demonstration projects were expected to develop as a result of groundwork laid at the briefing session.



Regional Administrator David Alspach introduces Administrator Anna Kondratas (center) to Colorado Social Services Executive Director Irene Ybarra.

-Story and Photo by Craig Forman
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

Woods Meets With Wisconsin Governor

MWRO Regional Administrator Monroe Woods (left) met recently with Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson in the Governor's State House Office.

Woods briefed Governor Thompson on FNS programs and issues, discussed increasing commodity usage in the State, and suggested actions to reduce Wisconsin's food stamp error rates.



-Story and Photo by
MWRO Public Affairs Staff

WRO Holds Field Meeting

Although the officers-in-charge (OIC's) of WRO's eight field offices are brought together for a meeting at least once a year, it has been 8 years since the field office food program specialists (FPS's) and the OIC's have met as a group.

That was remedied recently when WRO FPS's and OIC's got together for a weeklong meeting to discuss issues of common concern, learn firsthand about agency and regional direction and policy, hear from WRO programs and staffs, and renew old acquaintances and establish new ones.



WRO officers-in-charge (from left, front row): Karen Howard, WRO field operations; Eunice Walkdenberger, OIC, Los Angeles Field Office; Barbara Russell, OIC, Portland Field Office; Annette Gibbs, OIC, San Diego Field Office. (From left, back row) Grace Ehara, secretary, Office of Field Operations; Earl Daniels, OIC, San Francisco Field Office; Leo Baduria, OIC, Honolulu Field Office; Bob Delaney, OIC, Sacramento Field Office; Thor Bresemann, OIC, Seattle Field Office; Chuck Tercero, OIC, Phoenix Field Office; Jack Boozer, deputy administrator; and R. Hicks Elmore, regional administrator.

For about half of the FPS's it was their first face-to-face meeting with

their counterparts. Two of the eight OIC's were new to the job since the last meeting: Eunice Waldenberger, who was named OIC of the Los Angeles Field Office in September 1986, and Chuck Tercero, OIC of the Phoenix Field Office since July 1986.



Regional Administrator R. Hicks Elmore kicks off a weeklong meeting of the Western Region's field officers-in-charge and program specialists.

Following his opening remarks and talk on the region and the agency's priorities and direction, Regional Administrator R. Hicks Elmore presented Certificates of Merit to Leo Baduria, officer-in-charge of the Honolulu Field Office, for his work in procuring and shipping food for victims of a typhoon in the island nation of Yap; and Roger Brockmeyer, food program specialist in the Phoenix Field Office, for his quality control work.

Karen Howard, regional director of field operations, attributes the success of the meeting to an agenda developed by a committee field staff. "They developed the topics and the format, which consisted of some general meeting and group discussions. Everyone got involved."

-Story and Photo by Dick Montoya
WRO Public Affairs Staff

Meeting With California Nutrition Directors for the Elderly

Deputy Administrator for Special Nutrition Programs George Braley and WRO Food Distribution Program Director Dennis Stewart led a day-long commodity workshop sponsored by the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP). The workshop was held to address the numerous questions NANASP has received about the commodities programs.

An audience of more than 60 representatives of Federal Region IX Agencies on Aging were keenly interested in the discussions of commodities for use in their elderly feeding programs.

In addition to remarks by Braley and Stewart, there were presentations by several members of the WRO Food Distribution Program staff, the California distributing agency, and a panel discussion involving feeding program administrators from other states.

Workshop participants are in the process of making a decision about what percent of their entitlement they will receive in commodities next year.

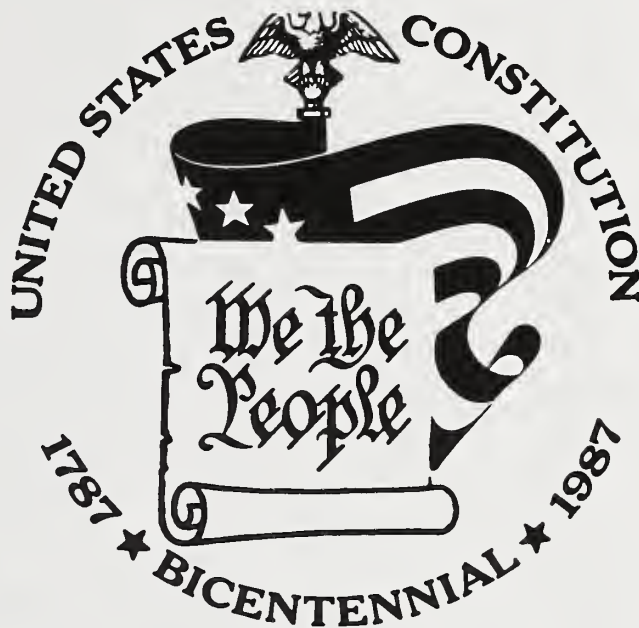


Deputy Administrator George Braley (left) and Food Distribution Program Director Dennis Stewart address the California Nutrition Directors for the Elderly.

-Story and Photos by Tino Serrano
WRO Public Affairs Staff

MPRO Commemorates Constitution Bicentennial

Mountain Plains Regional Office staffers were made more aware of the rights and privileges of being an American as the Region commemorated the Bicentennial of our Constitution. Coordinator Darlene Sanchez obtained grant funding for two excellent speakers and arranged showings of a videotape entitled "Blessings of Liberty."



Adolph Grundman, history professor at Denver's Metropolitan State College, discussed the Constitution from the perspective of an historian, balancing its validity over a two-century period and the trials it has faced and is still facing. The presentation provided an excellent tie-in of history with current events as well as the future of America.

Jean Otto, editorial page editor of the Rocky Mountain News, addressed first amendment issues and freedom of speech and the press. Her talk concluded with a spirited question-and-answer session.

-Story by Joanne Widner
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

Job Opportunities

FNS is seeking to fill the following vacant positions. To be considered for one of them, submit an up-to-date SF-171, Personal Qualifications Statement, and current performance appraisal to the appropriate personnel office. If you're interested in a Headquarters position, apply to the Employment Branch, Personnel Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Alexan-

dria, Virginia 22302. Apply directly to Headquarters office for all GM-14 and 15 positions. For Regional positions, directly to the Regional Office. For details on the requirements for any of the positions listed below, consult the official vacancy announcement. These are posted on designated bulletin boards or you can get copies from the appropriate Regional or Headquarters personnel office.

Friday Letter Vacancy Listing By Vacancy Number

	JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
	o Clerk/Typist	(L)	GS-322	2/3/4	Open until filled	86-35	FNS
	o Secretary Typing	(A)	GS-318	4/5/6	Open Continuous	87-999	Various Locations
*	o Supvry Grants Mgmt Specist	(USDA)	GM-0501	14	09/08/87	87-83	GMO
	o Management Analyst	(FNS-H)	GS-343	7/9	09/08/87	87-104	PED
	o Management Asst (Temp NTE 12/31/87)	(FNS-H)	GS-344	6	09/02/87	87-105	PED
	o Secretary Typing	(FNS-H)	GS-318	6/7	09/08/87	87-106	ORO
	o Grants Mgmt Specist	(FNS-N)	GS-501	12	09/21/87	87-107	GMO
	o Program Analyst	(A)	GS-345	12/13	09/24/87	87-108	OAE

FNS - Food and Nutrition Service

GMO - Grants Management Office

OAE - Office of Analysis and Evaluation

ORO - Office of Regional Operations

PED - Personnel Division

* Reannounced - Those who previously applied need not reapply.

** 2 Positions

Area of Consideration

(FNS H) - FNS Headquarters

(FNS N) - FN Nationwide

(USDA) - USDA

(A) - All Sources

(L) - Local Commuting Area